



**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**September 2006 Syndromic Surveillance  
Quality Assurance Report**

The Pinellas County Health Department has reviewed the data entered by all hospitals for the Syndromic Surveillance Program for the time period September 1 through September 30 for quality assurance purposes. We would like to thank all the participating hospitals for efforts they are making to continue improving the accuracy and reliability of this important community health monitoring system.

The total number of patients entered in September was 19,028, and the average daily rate in September was 634 entries per day. This is a 4% increase over the total number of entries for last month and a 5% decrease from the number of entries for 1 year ago, in September 2005. The performance of each hospital was compared to how it performed the previous 2 months, and an asterisk (\*) after the entry indicates an improvement.

**Average Time from Patient Arrival to Data Entry**

*Determined by averaging the period of time from when the data is entered versus the patient arrival time*

**Goal: Average 4 hours or less**

Hospital	Average Entry Time (hours)		
	July 2006	August 2006	Sept 2006
Helen Ellis	5	4	5
All Children's	5	5	5
St. Pete General	11	12	6 *
St. Anthony's	8	7	8
Edward White	15	13	12 *
Palms of Pasadena	15	13	12 *
Largo Medical	11	17	17
Sun Coast Hospital	20	20	19 *
Northside Hospital	22	31	21 *
Bayfront Medical	60	42	47
Morton Plant	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Dunedin	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Countryside	N/A	N/A	N/A
VA Medical Center	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>All Hospitals</b>	<b>21 hours</b>	<b>18 hours</b>	<b>14 hours</b>

### No Box Checked Rate

*The number of No Box Checked entries divided by the total patients entered*

**Goal: Less than 2% of records**

Hospital	No Box Checked Rate		
	July 2006	August 2006	Sept 2006
Edward White	0%	0%	0%
Sun Coast Hospital	0%	0%	0%
Northside Hospital	0.2%	0%	0%
Largo Medical	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
All Children's	0%	0.1%	0.6%
St. Anthony's	3.0%	0.6%	0.8%
Bayfront Medical	4.2%	1.7%	3%
Palms of Pasadena	8.0%	4.3%	3% *
St. Pete General	0%	0%	5%
Helen Ellis	11.3%	6.6%	9%
Morton Plant	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Dunedin	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Countryside	N/A	N/A	N/A
VA Medical Center	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>All Hospitals</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>2%</b>

### Data Entry Rate

*The number of patients entered into STARS divided by each hospital's total ER census for the month*

**Goal: At least 90% of ER visits entered into database**

Hospital	Data Entry Rate		
	July 2006	August 2006	Sept 2006
Sun Coast Hospital	100%	100%	100%
Helen Ellis Memorial	94%	95%	94%
All Children's Hospital	CNP**	95%	91%
Bayfront Medical	93%	89%	88%
Edward White Hospital	78%	79%	87% *
Largo Medical	64%	60%	82% *
St. Pete General Hospital	CNP**	72%	81% *
Palms of Pasadena	81%	86%	77%
Northside Hospital	76%	77%	CNP**
St. Anthony's Hospital	CNP**	CNP**	CNP**
Morton Plant Hospital	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Dunedin	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Countryside	N/A	N/A	N/A
VA Medical Center	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>All Reporting Hospitals</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>87%</b>

\*\*Census Not Provided

## **Duplicate Record Entries**

*The number of data entries that are considered to be duplicates divided by the total patients entered*

**Goal: Less than 1% of records duplicated**

<b>Hospital</b>	<b>Duplicate Rate</b>		
	<b>July 2006</b>	<b>August 2006</b>	<b>Sept 2006</b>
Sun Coast Hospital	0%	0%	0%
Palms of Pasadena	0.2%	0.4%	0% *
St. Anthony's	0.5%	0.1%	0.2%
Helen Ellis	0.7%	0.9%	0.3% *
Largo Medical	0.8%	0.7%	0.4% *
Bayfront Medical	0.7%	0.8%	0.4% *
Northside Hospital	0.8%	1.1%	0.4% *
Edward White	1.3%	1.7%	0.4% *
St. Pete General	1.3%	2.7%	0.6% *
All Children's	3.2%	2.8%	2.5% *
Morton Plant	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Dunedin	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Countryside	N/A	N/A	N/A
VA Medical Center	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>All Hospitals</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>

## **Discussion**

The average amount of time it takes to enter the patient information into the STARS website after the patient has arrived at the facility decreased to 18 hours for all participating hospitals. Sun Coast Hospital has the data automatically sent to the STARS website once per day, and is therefore unable to control the entry time.

Entering the correct date and time of patient arrival is important for linking patients during an epidemiologic investigation. Each hospital may check its own data through the "Reports" tab on the STARS website. Some hospitals use the triage time as the time of patient arrival and others use the time of disposition, which could make the time lapse appear to be smaller.

The overall No Box Checked rate increased to 2%, with 6 hospitals below 2% for the month, which is the goal for the No Box Checked category. Having the majority of the forms filled out when the patient first arrives, usually in the triage area, will help to reduce the number left blank. Since Sun Coast has the data sent automatically, there are no No Box Checked syndromes or duplicate entries.

There was a reduction in the duplicate entry rate for 8 hospitals this month, with 9 hospitals reaching the goal of less than 1%. One way to reduce the number of duplicate entries is to use the "CORR"

function when entering corrected records. Please remind all data entry personnel to type "CORR" before the MRN of the corrected entries to prevent them from being counted as duplicates.

There were 96 flags reported by the statistical analysis program during the month of September. It was necessary to contact a hospital 4 times (6% of cases reviewed) as a result of flags and 1 contact was made without a flag present. There were 4 unexplained deaths reported this past month. Also, there were 7 botulism-like illness syndromes reported. None of the cases were ever suspected to be botulism. Non-significant flags are a sign of incomplete data collection or inconsistent data entry and there were 3 hospitals that had zero non-significant flags.

### Aberrant Flags by Hospital, September 2006

Hospital	Total Reported Flags	Non-significant Flags*	Flags Reviewed by CHD	Hospital Contacts
All Children's	11	5	6	2
Bayfront Medical	8	5	3	1**
Edward White	4	0	4	1
Helen Ellis	16	3	13	1
Largo Medical	4	1	3	0
Northside	12	0	12	0
Palms of Pasadena	8	5	3	0
St. Anthony's	3	2	1	0
St. Pete General	13	6	7	0
Sun Coast	12	0	12	0
Multiple Hospital/ Cumulative Flag	16	10	6	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>5</b>

\*Refers to "None of the Following" and "No Box Checked" flags

\*\*Call made to hospital without a flag present

BayCare Health Systems has completed the databridge for hospitals in Hillsborough County and will begin to implement the databridge for their hospitals in Pinellas County. Bayfront Medical has also begun to send test data transmissions. If you have any questions about any aspect of this report, or if you have any ideas about what you would like to see included in the report, please contact Sitha Mangipudy at the Pinellas County Health Department at (727) 820-4155 or email at [Sitha Mangipudy@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Sitha.Mangipudy@doh.state.fl.us).